continous process. New facilities are provided in the Central Government Hospitals from time to time.

(c) and (d) The provision for modernisation and expansion of Central Government Hospitals are provided within the budget provision of the hospitals. For the last three years and current financial year, the budget provision (PLAN) for Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are as under.

(Rs. in thousands)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Safdarjung Hospital Dr. R.M.L.	10,19,11	6,96,82	10,26,00	7,00,00
Hospital Lady Hardinge Medical	9,06,65'	6,08,16	5,80,00	6,00,00
College & Associated Hospitals	5,44,21	6,15,03	6,73,00	5,00,00

Conference of Tuberculosis

486. SHRI T. VANKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on "Changing Spectrum of Tuberculosis" was held in the Capital (Delhi) during April, 1995;

(b) if so, the main points discussed at the Conference; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle AIDS-TB nexus which is likely to assume epidemic proportions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b): A privately sponsored conference on "Changing Spectrum of Tuberculosis" was held in Delhi during April, 1995. Government has no specific information about the main points discussed at the Conference.

(c) T.B. is one of the opportunistic ailments associated with AIDS. A comprehensive strategy to bring infectious T.B. cases under treatment speedily and to take necessary preventive measures to control the transmission of HIV is currently under implementation.

Steps to protect people from Radioactive leakage

487. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to protect people from radioactive leakage at the Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken safety measures at other Atomic Power Plants; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) No radioactive leak has taken place from the Tarapur & Atomic Power Station. A minor leak of radioactive (b) liquid occured front the Waste Immobilisation Plant of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre which treats the wastes generated by the nuclear facilities at Tarapur. The radio-activity concentration in the drain water was in the range of 6—10 becquerels/litre (becquerel per litre is a unit for expressing radioactivity concentration). In comparison, the World Health Organisation standard for radioactivity concentration in drinking water for continued consumption is 10 bq/litre and

normal radioactivity level in sea water it about 15 Bq/litre. There is, therefore, no question of any danger to the people or the environment on account of this incident.

(c) The design of all our atomic power plants follows the highest safety standards to preclude leak of radioactivity to the environment. The radiation levels in the environment surrounding the plants are subjected to continuous monitoring by environmental Survey Laboratories to keep a watch on the release of radioactivity. The release of effluents from the operating power plants in the country are governed by the permissible limits prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board which are as per international standards. The actual releases of effluents from nuclear power plants are monitored by independent Environmental Survey Laboratories and are kept within the safe limits.

Tourists Abducted in J & K

488. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAGHAVJI: SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether five foreign tourists have been abducted from Pahalgam, J & K State, in July, 1995;

(b) if so, under what circumstances these foreign tourists were abducted and what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any demand from the militants for the release of these foreign tourists and if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what efforts have so far been made to trace and get these foreign tourists rescued; and

(e) what security measures were taken or are proposed to be taken by Government for the safety and protection of tourists visiting Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Six foreign nationals (2 Americans, 2 British, 1 German and 1 Norweigan) were kidnapped by militants of 'Al-Faran' Outfit from Pahalgam, District Anantnag on 4-7-95 and 8-7-95. Out of them, one American national escaped from the militants' custody while the rest are still captive.

(c) The Al-Faran group has demanded the release of 22 arrested militants and some foreign mercenaries. They included one militant who is already on bail.

(d) A heavy contingent of security forces has been deployed to trace the kidnapped foreigners taking, however, all necessary precautions to ensure that the safety of the hostages is not jeopardised.

(e) The areas frequented by the tourists are being provided area security cover. Patrolling in the sensitive areas as also tourist resorts in the valley has been intensified and pickets manned by security forces have been established.

Enhancement in the Contribution rates of C6HS Beneficiaries

489. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2711 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th March, 1995 and state:

(a) the percentage of total annual cost of the scheme, the contributions from beneficiaries constituted before and after revision and raising of the rates, and

(b) whether Government have also raised the maximum amount of the cost of pacemakers and hearing aids provided to beneficiaries on proper medical advice,